

The School Board Corner

By Dana Reinboldt, Griffis Widewater District
October 2005

By the time you read this, our children will have almost completed their first month of school.

What's New: Our 5th High School, Mountain View High School began classes. We will be opening Conway Elementary school in January of this school year. Three of our High Schools, Mountain View, North Stafford and Brooke Point are now on Block scheduling.

After-School Activity Buses are running from each of our high schools to selected drop off points in neighborhoods in Stafford. These buses are available for students for after school activities like tutoring, sports, clubs and after-school detention. I have been a strong supporter of these after-school activity buses which will allow our students who might not normally be able to stay after school for activities to participate. The New Dress Code is now in effect. Additional information about the Dress Code can be found on the Stafford County Schools' website at www.staffordschools.net, and in the Student Code of Conduct.

A reminder about Cell Phones, Pagers, PDAs, or like devices—students are NOT to use or display such devices in the school buildings or on school grounds during the school day or at any time while on a school bus. Use is defined in the Student Code of Conduct in the "Rules of Conduct" section, item number 43.

About Buses: If you did not see the bus schedules in the Free-Lance Star, prior to the start of school, that was because they are no longer publishing the bus schedules for any of the school districts. Our Transportation Department sent out postcards to our families at their home address, and a Master Schedule was posted at each of the schools. In addition, bus schedules can also be found on the Stafford Schools' website. I want to thank all our parents and students for their patience the first several weeks of school as new drivers, combined with new students and bus routes were all getting settled. Please remember to always stop for our school buses loading and unloading children.

Please also stress the importance to your children of good behavior on the school buses. I believe that safely transporting our children to and from school is tremendously important task. Some of our newer buses hold about 70 children. Regardless of the number of children on a school bus, the bus driver needs to focus on driving and safely boarding and discharging our children. Bad behavior on a bus is a distraction, and is a danger to all the children on the bus. In addition, included in this month's school newsletters will be safety tips and guidelines for your students pertaining to boarding, and exiting the bus, etc. Please review these tips and guidelines with your children. We want all our children to be safe around their school buses!

How Can We Participate? Consider being a parent volunteer. Many hands make light work. The more parents that volunteer, the more successful a school year this will be. There are opportunities to volunteer in our children's classrooms, or with the PTA or PTO at your child's school, or with booster clubs, or other clubs at the schools. Many of the activities occur after school, in the evenings or on weekends. Perhaps there are other ways you can assist in your child's school, ask your child's teacher. Together, parents in partnership with our schools make a positive learning environment for all our children.

In closing, I'd like to say that sadly the week before school began the terrible tragedy, Hurricane Katrina devastated Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. We have already enrolled a number of students who have been displaced in Stafford County Schools. Stafford County Schools is happy to welcome these students, and has plans in place to assist these children and their families, and any future children who may come to Stafford. For more information, you can call the School Board Office at 658-6000.

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